

Appl. No. 10/708,398
Reply to Office action of September 20, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Request for Continued Examination:

The applicant respectfully requests continued examination of the above-indicated
5 application as per 37 CFR 1.114.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by
Miele (US 2002/0055680).

Response:

10 The Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 3 to more clearly
describe the present invention. Differences between the currently amended
claims and Miele are explained below.

15 Claim 1 now recites that the claimed ultrasonic vein detector comprises a
pulse presser for applying pulse stress signals to the examinee and an ultrasound
probe separate from and movable with respect to the pulse presser for locating
the position of a vein while the pulse presser is applying pulse stress signals.

20 Claim 1 further specifies that the ultrasound probe comprises an ultrasonic
emitter and an ultrasonic sensor. All claim amendments are fully supported by
Figures 5 and 6 of the instant application, and no new matter is introduced.

25 On the other hand, Miele teaches in Figures 10 and 11 that a wrist brace
1000 contains a recess 1030 and an opening 1034 for receiving an applanation
and transverse positioning system 800 containing ultrasonic transducers 602, 604.
The applanation and transverse positioning system 800 is fixed to the wrist brace
1000 through the recess 1030, and is "rigidly mounted to the upper brace element
1002" (as stated in paragraph [0113], lines 9-11 of Miele). Miele teaches that the
wrist brace 1000 is used to aid in measuring the pressure of an artery. Miele does
not teach that the applanation and transverse positioning system 800 is separate
30 and movable with respect to the wrist brace 1000 while determining the position

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of a vein, as is claimed.

5 Miele does not provide a technician with a way to easily locate the position of a vein in an examinee since the applanation and transverse positioning system 800 is fixed to the wrist brace 1000 and is not able to move with respect to the wrist brace 1000 for locating the position of a vein. Because of these differences, the applicant submits that the currently amended claim 1 is patentably distinguished from Miele.

10 Claim 3, similar to claim 1, states that the "ultrasound probe is separate from and movable with respect to the pulse presser for locating the position of a vein while the pulse presser is applying pulse stress signals". As Miele does not teach this limitation, claim 3 is also patentable over Miele.

15 In addition, claims 2 and 4-5 are dependent on claims 1 and 3, and should be allowed if their respective base claims are allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1-5 is therefore respectfully requested.

20 Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Sincerely yours,

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Date: 10.04.2007

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